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UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL FACULTÉ DE DROIT
MCGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW

September 18, 1995
le 18 septembre, 1995

McGill remporte le Rousseau

Le Concours francophone de droit international Rousseau a été créé en 1985. Ce Concours a opposé cette année dix équipes en provenance d'Allemagne, de Belgique, de Bulgarie, du Canada, de France, de Roumanie et enfin de Tunisie. Les équipes sont composées de quatre plaideurs devant défendre le dossier de deux États aux prises dans le cadre d'un litige international fictif devant la Cour Internationale de Justice.

Le Royaume du Tignas avait-il le droit international pour lui lorsque ses troupes ont pénétré, le 21 août 1994, sur le territoire de son voisin la Kalvitie, occupant toute la plaine de la Kalvitie frontale? Pour justifier son opération militaire le Tignas invoque différentes résolutions prises par le Conseil de sécurité à la suite du coup d'État qui a porté une junte militaire au pouvoir à Minoxville en avril 1994 et ait eu pour conséquences de nombreux assassinats et disparitions d'opposants. Ces résolutions, estime toutefois la Kalvitie, ne justifiaient pas l'action entreprise. Elles n'autorisaient notamment pas les

autorités teigneuses à profiter de l'occasion pour récupérer dans les musées kalvitiens une série de toiles signées par des artistes teigneux et transportées en Kalvitie au temps de la colonisation, ni à réquisitionner systématiquement les troupeaux de moutons pour nourrir les troupes d'occupation.

Pour examiner cet épineux conflit, sept éminents professeurs de droit, MM. Dominicé, Cahier, Martin, Levrat, Thierry, Rosenberg et David, des Universités de Genève, Lausanne, Paris, Tours et Bruxelles ont siégé à Genève le vendredi 12 mai sous la présidence de Madame Martine Brunschwig-Graf, chef du Département de l'instruction publique du canton de Genève.

Quatre représentants des deux Universités finalistes, McGill et l'Université Libre de Bruxelles, ont plaidé avec conviction et compétence. Après délibérations, la palme est revenue à l'équipe canadienne, qui avait présenté les arguments en faveur du Royaume du Tignas. Notre équipe gagnante était

composée de quatre étudiants de deuxième année du programme national: **Sebastien Gagné, Valérie Mac-Seing, Marc Porret et Nadine Thwaites** sous la supervision des professeurs **Pierre Klein et Armand De Mestral**.

Notons la participation fort remarquée de l'équipe d'Ottawa qui se classe quatrième après l'université de Paris X.

Equipe Rousseau de McGill '95

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Announcements / Annonces

Notes from the Office of Undergraduate Studies

The University has adopted new terminology to replace the much-loved nomenclature currently used by faculties and departments (most of which mean different things to different people!).

In future, **Obligatory courses** will be known as **Required courses**; **Semi-obligatory courses** will be known as **Complementary courses** and **electives**, by any other name, remain **electives**. This change takes effect officially in September of 1996, but forewarned, as they say...

Student mail boxes in the OUS are overflowing ... do come by from time to time and take a look in your slot for mail, messages, sneakers, etc.

We still have a selection of **Winter term papers and essays** gathering dust on the floor of our office. If you want yours, you have until 5:00 pm,

Friday 29th September to claim it.

Rabbi Shmidman will teach a **Research Seminar in Talmudic Law** (389-508/9B (07) in the second term. Check the Bulletin Board in the Computer Lab. for complete details.

Attention all students **entering their second year of Law**. Upon successful completion of your first year, you were automatically registered in the **National Programme**. If you do not wish to complete the National Programme, i.e. if you intend to graduate with ONLY your degree of entrance, you must notify our office. Unless we know of your intention to graduate with a single degree, your name will not appear on the convocation list.

First Term Course Change period runs from Wednesday 6th September to Sunday 17th September inclusive. During this time, returning students may access MARS to add or drop courses. No "W" (approved withdrawal) will appear on your record. Changes made between Monday 18th September and Sunday 22nd October inclusive are coded with

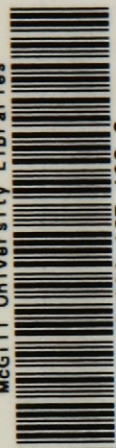
a "W". Course changes made after 22nd October are processed through our office and are subject to a \$25 fee per transaction (one drop and one add made at the same time constitute one transaction).

Locker Lists are posted on the bulletin board in the Cafeteria. Anyone occupying a locker assigned to someone else will have their lock cut off and their possessions removed, so please double-check the locker area and locker number assigned to you.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS & SUPREME COURT CLERKSHIPS

On Wednesday, September 20, 1995 at 12:30 p.m. at the Common Room, 3644 Peel, there will be an information session for all students interested in graduate studies in Law or Supreme Court clerkships. If you want to know about the opportunities (and money) available, come along.

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Rédacteur-en-chef/ Editor in chief:
Emmanuel Castiel

Directrice administrative/ Administrative Director:
Barbara Frederikse

Directrice de l'information/ News Director:
Alpana Garg

Pour ce numéro/ For this issue:

Production::
Kiri Vanikiotios

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Editorial

A QUESTION WORTH QUESTIONING

Our Premier Jacques Parizeau presented the referendum question to the National Assembly on September 7 while tabling the referendum bill. The draft law is called *Bill 1* since, I presume, it marks the birth of a new country. *Bill 1* says the National Assembly can proclaim sovereignty, but only after the formal offer of a treaty to the rest of Canada. There may then be negotiations over the treaty with Canada to determine the extent of the economic and political partnership between the two countries. Moreover, negotiations must not extend beyond October 30, 1996 or one year after the referendum. That way, Canadian negotiators cannot drag out the negotiations to delay the separation of Quebec. A more cynical view states that there is an October 30, 1996 deadline so that Quebec negotiators can declare an impasse and separate without any form of partnership with Canada. The bill gives the National Assembly the power to extend the deadline. *Bill 1* announces the possibility of a second referendum to ask Quebecers to endorse a new constitution. The bill states, among other things, that a sovereign Quebec will guarantee the rights of the English-speaking community, will retain the Canadian dollar as its currency and will provide a job for every federal government employee in Quebec. *Bill 1* includes the June 12 agreement between the three sovereignist parties - the Parti Québécois, the Bloc Québécois and the Parti Action Démocratique - and the "declaration of sovereignty" that was read at Quebec City's Grand Théâtre.

What about the question?

Do you agree that Quebec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership, within the scope of the bill respecting the future of Quebec and of the agreement signed on June 12,

1995? Yes or No?

That's the question Quebecers will be answering October 30, 1995, in less than 6 weeks. Both sovereignists and federalists had predictable reactions. Sovereignists claimed the question was a clear one and would allow them to win the referendum. Federalists criticized the question by saying it was complicated and unclear. The question, I find, is not difficult to understand. It is however misleading. I say this for three reasons: 1. It says Quebec would become sovereign. It does not say Quebec would separate from Canada. It doesn't even say that Quebec would become a sovereign country. It seems more Quebecers would vote for sovereignty over separation. Don't ask me why, I can't explain it. As for the word "country", Parizeau dismisses that remark by saying that a sovereign Quebec and Quebec being a sovereign country is the same thing. 2. It says "after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership". That sentence, especially the word "after", gives the impression that a partnership is a "fait accompli", or at least that sovereignty depends on a partnership. That is not the case. There need not be any agreement. Quebec would become sovereign, treaty or no treaty. All Quebec needs to do is make an offer, however unacceptable for Canada it may be. The offer based on the June 12 agreement will propose political and economic co-operation on 50-50 terms. Canada is not likely to accept. Premiers of the other nine provinces keep saying that they will treat a sovereign Quebec as any other country and not show it any favoritism. Parizeau insists that it's just campaigning and that the other provinces will cave in. I happen to agree with him; their economy is linked too much to Quebec's to just

exclude it. But Parizeau forgets how hurt and insulted English-Canada will feel if it is told by Quebecers that they no longer want to be living alongside them in the same country. I believe English-Canada would only accept some kind of economic co-operation like the one uniting the European Community countries. 3. The words "within the scope ... of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995" is very misleading. The question doesn't spell out that it is the agreement between Parizeau, Lucien Bouchard and Mario Dumont. Quebecers might mistake it for an agreement with the rest of Canada. I hope that will be made clear to voters.

Cependant, le libellé de la question, peut-il influencer le vote? Les experts disent que non. Ce qui est important est comment les votants comprennent le débat et comment ils interprètent l'éventuelle victoire du Oui. Les fédéralistes disent que le Oui veut dire une séparation claire et nette du beau pays qu'est le Canada, alors que les souverainistes disent qu'un Oui veut dire que le peuple québécois, après tellement d'années comme partenaires inférieurs des Canadiens anglais, peut finalement espérer être une nation. C'est ce débat qui va avoir un impact sur le résultat du vote et pas comment la question est posée. Ici c'est le cas, pourquoi est-ce le gouvernement a rédigé la question d'une façon si favorable au Oui? La question devrait être plus neutre et moins décevante.

J'espère que le débat va se poursuivre à la Faculté de Droit et au Quid Novi. Des lettres d'opinion sur le référendum ou sur tout autre sujet seront publiées avec joie.

GOOD 7 ALL

When they put out the student survey last year and asked what changes we would most like to see at the Faculty. I wrote in that they should remove the Latin inscription in front of New Chancellor Day Hall and replace it with the following, "Abandon all hope ye who enter here." It's not that law school couldn't be made easy or fun, it's just that they won't let it be. I remember a warm fall day three years ago when I walked through the doors of Old Chancellor Day Hall for the first time. (Actually, I had quite a bit of trouble getting in. That front door is kind of tricky.) My head was full of all kinds of grandiose notions about the ancient and honorable profession I was entering into. I thought that the study of law was much like the training of a master chef. At first the dishes might seem a bit overwhelming, but gradually, as your taste buds become acclimated to the cuisine, you become able to discern and enjoy all of the subtle flavors that infuse the meal. Eventually, if you are patient, diligent and attentive you learn the dishes and you may become a master yourself, delighting and mystifying other diners. It has been three years, and alas all I have seen them make is poutine. Now don't get me wrong, I love poutine. What I'm getting at is that it's not that difficult to make. Anyone can buy the cheese, gravy and fries to make it. The secret behind poutine is that while it's easy to make, people don't really make it for themselves. Instead they go out and pay someone to make it for them. It's the same with law. I really haven't been taught much of anything that anyone else couldn't figure out with a civil code, but most people don't go out and draft their own contracts or file their own lawsuits. I've spent the last two summers and most of the last three years working at the McGill Legal Information Clinic. The Clinic serves McGill as well as the entire Montreal community. The

clientele at the Clinic ranges from people without legal, but with mental and emotional problems to those with genuine legal problems who can't afford lawyers. True enough, the province does provide legal aid. However, the maximum gross earnings to qualify for legal aid are so ridiculously low that you pretty much have to be living on the streets in order to qualify, and if you're living on the streets that last thing that you need in your life is a lawyer. At the Clinic we do our best to help the clients who come to us with genuine legal problems. Unfortunately, more often than not, there is very little that we can actually do for them beyond tell them what their legal rights are. The Bar Act forbids anyone, except a member of the Bar, from giving legal advice, drafting legal documents or even filling out court forms. I now know how to make poutine, and if my professors haven't been completely lying to me, on occasion it is even edible. However, as of yet I haven't been able to make it for anyone that is really hungry. Furthermore, explaining how to make poutine to someone who is petrified every time they walk into the grocery store is a thoroughly frustrating task. It would be a lot easier if the staffers at the Clinic were permitted to help the clients fill out their forms, if they were allowed to draft letters for them or to appear as counsel in certain proceedings. However, the Bar Act forbids any of these things. There could be several reasons for this. The most legitimate, and likely the least true, is that it is an attempt at quality control. These prohibitions in the Bar Act prevent the unscrupulous or just incompetent from swindling people out of their hard earned income with shoddy services. Sounds pretty good but, in the three years that I have been at the Clinic I have encountered enough pleadings and heard enough stories about peoples'

lawyers to know that passing the Bar does not make one hard working, ethical and least of all competent. What passing the Bar does do is allow you to call yourself a lawyer and charge \$150 - \$500 an hour for services. I once heard that a lawyer begins by giving \$500 worth of legal advice for \$50 and ends up by giving \$50 worth of legal advice for \$500. The real reason I suspect that the Bar Act prohibits anyone but a lawyer from giving legal advice is to preserve the legal monopoly. Unlike medicine law is not inherently complex. The human body is the most complex of machines. As such the best that most of us can do is to have some sort of clue as to what to put in the machine and what not to put in the machine. On the other hand the study of law is not inherently complex, rather most of the complexity in the law is generated from within. The average Supreme Court of Canada decision runs about 150 pages and contains anywhere from three to five judgments. Most of the verbiage, to borrow a tax phrase, is simply an unnecessary recounting of how the wheel was invented. If that were the only complication to be found in the law then most people could do what I do, ignore the historical recounting of how people came down from the trees, learned to make fire and domesticated animals, and proceed directly to the ratio of the case. However, most of the recent Supreme Court decisions contain no clear ratio. Instead you are given anywhere from three to five opinions which are loosely based on, though by no means confined to, the issues outlined in the case. Discerning a clear majority is a Procrustean¹ task for a student of the law, and a near impossibility for any mere mortal. The Supreme Courts function is to reveal the law, not to further obscure it. Personally, I think that their recent attempts at their job are at

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the very least inefficient, and in the worst case abysmal failures.

One of the first rules about the law I learned in Foundations of Canadian Law (Yes I did manage to learn a couple of things in that class) was that in order for a law to be valid the people governed the law must be capable of knowing what acts are prohibited. Well, as my recent ranting indicate, I am of the firm belief that no one, music or non music majors alike, can truly understand the law. In fact, if there is one person reading this that thinks that he or she truly does understand the law I have but one thing to say, "The International Court of Justice is neither a court, nor just... discuss!" For those that would argue that it is only natural that average citizens feel alienated from the law, and that the mystification of the law is necessary in order to preserve a sense of respect for it need only look at the state of affairs south of the border and around the world. In the U.S. there has been a growth in right wing extremists who ignore laws that they feel alienated from. If there ever was such a creature as International Law the atrocities in former Yugoslavia have demonstrated that war criminals do not feel bound by it. Alienation by the law will lead inexorably to people taking the law into their own hands, which will lead to anarchy.

Pretty grim picture maybe we all should

just give up and study something really useful like horticulture. Not necessarily. Lawyers have been by far the greatest contributors to the problems which I have outlined above. I remember a certain professor, who taught me a bit about Foundations, something about Equity and a whole lot about how to laugh at yourself, who said, "On the whole florists contribute a lot less to the sum total of human misery than lawyers do." Therefore, it is only natural that lawyers be the first ones to offer a solution to the problem. Instead of lawyers trying to bill as many hours to a client as possible, they should instead be concerned with providing as much value for their clients' dollar as possible. Even large corporations with seemingly infinite funding have begun to look at the bottom line. That is the first step. Second, everyone involved in the law from the 30 year practitioner to the first year student should look for ways in which to use his or her unique skill to better the community. The ways to serve are infinite. My experience is with the McGill Legal Information Clinic, but there are other Clinics that McGill law students staff. The Faculty's decision to allow students up to six credits for their participation in local clinics should be applauded. Likewise, the tireless efforts of students like Bruno Guillot-Hurtubise, Tara Ashtakala and Claudine Millette who administer the Legal Clinic course

which places students in these clinics should be applauded. Every year Skit Night raises thousands of dollars for local charities. These are all ways in which the students at McGill are giving back to their communities. If the microcosm of McGill could be replicated on a larger scale I think it would go a long way to repairing the tarnished image of the legal profession.

Jody Berkes is a fourth year law student who was once an idealistic first year law student. He is now older and wiser, but watch out ,beneath his veneer of sarcasm there beats the heart of a romantic. His column appears weekly in the Quid Novi.

¹ I'll save you the trouble of running to your dictionary for this one. Procrustus was a mythical innkeeper who was obsessed with order (to put it mildly). His beds were all one size and nearly everyone that stayed at the Inn was either too short or too tall. Like I said this guy was more obsessed with order than Professor Bell is with parallel legal citation. He simply couldn't stomach the thought of peoples' feet not reaching, or hanging over, the edge of the bed. Therefore he devised the following plan. If a guest was too short he would stretch them to fit the bed. On the other hand, if a guest was too tall he would simply lop off the excess of limb with an ax.

McGill Business Law Club

If M&As, hostile takeovers, tax evasion, and white collar crimes excite you, read on...

The recently established Business Law Club will offer members the opportunity to meet and share ideas with other students with similar interests, obtain information about different career paths (whether law-related or not), and

participate in various events designed specifically to meet the extra-curricular needs of aspiring business lawyers. The club's focus will be on corporate/commercial and other related business law fields such as taxation, bankruptcy & insolvency, securities law, real estate law, and finance & banking.

If you are interested in joining the

Club and have not signed up during Club Day, you can contact either Bernard Abdo (at 735-5077) or Michael Akkawi (at 879-3382), or leave us a message in the Club's mail box in the LSA office.

DEAN'S SPEECH TO FIRST -YEAR CLASS 1995-96

By Dean Stephen J. Toope

Vous vous trouvez actuellement dans la salle du Tribunal-École, et c'est dans ce lieu vital que j'ai l'honneur de vous souhaiter la bienvenue au nom de toute la Faculté. En effet, vous passerez ici de nombreuses heures au cours de vos quatre années dans le Programme national.

Malheureusement, vous découvrirez que les heures passées dans cette salle sont quelquefois frustrantes parce que le Tribunal-École sert aussi de salle de classe pour les grands groupes et l'acoustique est généralement désastreuse. Heureusement, à cause de ces problèmes *inter alia*, nous avons des plans pour le réaménagement de cet édifice y compris le Tribunal-École, ainsi que pour la construction d'une nouvelle bibliothèque. Nous espérons que ce projet se réalise durant vos études dans la Faculté.

Our reasons for being in this room are diverse. I am here because I have a role to play. I am Dean of the Faculty of Law and one of my jobs is to welcome you warmly to our Faculty. My colleagues are here because they have a natural curiosity to find out what the first-year class looks like. In any event, I sent them a memo and suggested that they really should be here. You are all here because you have made decisions, some of them easy, some of them hard. Those decisions have been related to your vocation in life, to your choice of residence or domicile, to your familial and other responsibilities, to your pursuit of dreams, to your acceptance of the inevitable. Some of you may not really know why you are here. Our different roads in life have brought us to this place and this time. But you, the class of 1999, are all embarking upon a new road together. How smooth or bumpy will that road be? What will the landscape look like as we journey along?

Imagine the following brief excerpt as a description of legal studies:

The road sloped downwards.
The deeper we went the more
vivid the colours of that world
became. There were colours I
never knew existed, colours so
dazzling, so full of health and

radiance, colours that blurred
all distinctions between
brightness and darkness, that
seemed to occupy the highest
octaves of new dreams, that I
travelled in a state of perpetual
astonishment. The world kept
changing. The road began to
move. It behaved like a river,
and it flowed against the
direction of my journey.
Travelling suddenly became
very difficult. My feet hurt, I
was excruciatingly hungry,
and with each step I felt like
giving up. I had thought the
journey to the other world
would be an effortless one.

Alright, you have already guessed that that's not really a description of legal studies. Or is it? It is in fact an excerpt from a wonderful novel called *The Famished Road* by the Nigerian author Ben Okri. He is describing the visions of his central character, a boy named Azaro, who routinely travels between the natural world and the spirit world. But I believe that the description is relevant to the road you are embarking upon today.

Over the next four years you will indeed experience the vivid colours of the rich intellectual life at McGill's Faculty of Law. Distinctions which have been important to you, which may even have been defining, may indeed come to be blurred. Certainly the world will keep changing and the road will continue to move. There will be times when the travelling becomes difficult. The journey to the new world, the intellectual world of legal studies, will not be effortless.

But note that what Okri is talking about is the difficulty of change, and the difficulty of learning more about oneself and one's world. He is not describing a quest, in which there are certain tests which must be passed or hurdles which must be overcome. He is talking about a continuous process. The road ahead of you is difficult, not because you are going to have to meet my expectations, or the expectations of

professors; nor because you will have to prove yourself against tough examination questions. The road is difficult because the study of law calls upon us to engage in profound reflection about the structures which undergird our social organization, the institutions which channel and perhaps constrain our private and public life, and the possibilities for change inevitably present in any dynamic community.

Very few of you are in this room for purely instrumental reasons. Legal studies - especially at McGill - are not simply a hurdle in your quest for a career. You now have the immeasurable gift of four years in which you can read widely, discuss important issues with friends and professors, and perhaps even dream about changing the world - and trying to figure out strategies about how to do it.

I am not naive. Remember, I sat in your seat not so very long ago. I know that some of you are nervous. You are worried about how you are going to do all of the work that will be required of you. Some of you are even wondering whether you are interested in law. My guess is, you will be interested in law. But you will be interested only to the extent that you allow yourself the luxury of being a student. In the Oxford English dictionary, one of the definitions of student is one who is "studying in order to become". Superficially, that definition sounds purely instrumentalist. You are a law student because you want to become an articling student or to become a lawyer or to become a senior partner or to become a politician. Of course the problem with this interpretation is that it presents an entirely impoverished view of the word "become". As human beings, we need not be defined entirely by our occupation. As students in law, you have the capacity to become many things. Your professors hope that together we can all become more thoughtful, critical and creative citizens.

If you start your four years in this community thinking that your goal is simply to become a lawyer, I guarantee that you will miss most of the excitement of McGill. You are also sure to heighten your own levels of anxiety, because you will be attempting to measure yourself against a limited and limiting set of standards.

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L'année dernière une étude a été menée sur les niveaux d'anxiété chez les étudiants de médecine et de droit. Nous avons appris que chez les étudiants de droit l'anxiété est nettement plus élevée. Il semblerait que cet anxiété soit en partie auto-infligé. Pour beaucoup d'étudiants la réussite aux examens devient presque une obsession. Je vous encourage à ne pas tomber dans cette ornière. Il y a d'autres façons de travailler, par exemple les groupes d'études. Nous vous offrirons l'occasion de travailler ensemble: pour la préparation de tribunal-école, des présentations orales en classe et pour la rédaction de la Revue de droit entre autres. Et cela dans un esprit de collaboration.

Now I admit that some of the anxiety which students experience in legal studies is caused not by self-imposed standards on the quest for high marks and good jobs, but in the realization that in legal studies there are few certainties and the answers to our queries are not always fixed. You will soon discover that in legal thought, nuance is an important concept. Let's rejoin the world of Ben Okri for just a moment. The boy Azaro is speaking to his spirit guide:

Are we travelling this road to the end?
Yes, the spirit said, walking as if distance meant nothing.
But you said the road has no end.
That's true, said the spirit.
How can it be true?
From a certain point of view the universe seems to be composed of paradoxes. But everything resolves. That is the function of contradiction.
I don't understand.
When you can see everything from every imaginable point of view you can begin to understand.
Can you?
No.

You will soon discover that your professors are like that spirit. Like all human beings, they are full of contradictions. They will call upon you to attempt what they themselves have not yet been able to attain, "to see everything from every imaginable point of view". Remember that one of the key Latin maxims, one which has shaped the Western understanding of law, is "audi alteram partem" (hear the other side). With the enormous diversity that we live out in North American society, we cannot truly talk of another side, but of other sides. At McGill's Faculty of Law, you will experience great diversity. Linguistic diversity. Cultural diversity. Diversity in personal habits and tastes. Intellectual diversity. Happily, and here I can speak from the perspective of someone who has been

both a student in our Faculty, a professor and now Dean, the diversity has never degenerated into cacophony.

Cette année comme citoyens du Québec et du Canada, nous sommes engagés dans un débat politique bien chargé. Pour un étudiant de droit les questions qui se posent sont fondamentales et présentent un défi stimulant. L'expérience nous montre que dans notre faculté, malgré des opinions diverses et les prises de position fermes, les débats se déroulent dans un esprit de cordialité. Le sentiment d'appartenir à une communauté colore tous les échanges.

You will be able to debate the issues of the day with members of your class from every province in Canada and with Québécois from all regions. Roughly a quarter of the class is francophone and not all Montréalais by any means. We have students from Amos, Cap-Rouge, Wakefield, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Trois-Rivières, Matane, etc. Among you there are also many students whose mother tongue is neither French nor English. Members of your class grew up speaking Croatian, German, Arabic, Italian, Hebrew, Greek, Vietnamese, Ukrainian and Punjabi. Twenty-two of you already have master's degrees and two of you have Ph.D.s.

I am happy to report that our intra-mural hockey team should benefit substantially from the presence in your class of a former NHLer. Skit Nite should become even more professional and multimedia with the presence of a film editor, an actor and a writer. The financial controller should ensure that the L.S.A.'s books are perfectly balanced. I hope that we will be able to found a Faculty chamber ensemble based upon the talents of our violinist and cellist. Some of our professors may be coached in their diplomatic skills by the former officer of Foreign Affairs Canada who sits amongst you. The computer consultants should ensure the continuing vitality of our student Computer Committee, and I imagine that the Faculty may have cause to call upon the talents of our new in-house public relations consultant. As you can see, this class should prove to be both interesting and fun.

Je voudrais souhaiter une bienvenue particulièrement chaleureuse aux Cégepiens parce que je sais que beaucoup d'entre vous ressentent une certaine nervosité au moment d'aborder vos études de droit. Vous avez peut-être entendu des rumeurs au sujet des qualifications mirobolantes des autres étudiants de votre classe. Et, évidemment, c'est vrai.

Mais je tiens à vous rassurer: vous avez été sélectionnés avec soin. Habituellement, les Cégepiens réussissent admirablement dans la Faculté. Je vous encourage à prendre confiance en vous, et de vous

lancer dans les diverses activités et associations de la Faculté. Ce serait dommage de vous limiter à vos études seulement. Mais, attention: les études ne devront pas être négligées pour autant.

So you see, you really are embarking upon this journey together. At some point in your legal studies, you will realize that it is all going by too quickly. Savour your time here. Take up the opportunities and challenges which are presented to you. Attend the special lectures and debates. Join student organizations. Become involved in the political and social life of your community. Once again, let's travel down Ben Okri's spirit road for just a moment:

I looked at the road with new eyes. It was short and marvellous. It was a work of art, a shrine almost, beautiful beyond description, created out of the most precious substances in the world ...

Why is it so beautiful?
Because each new generation begins with nothing and with everything. They know all the earlier mistakes. They may not know that they know, but they do. They know the early plans, the original intentions, the earliest dreams. Each generation has to reconnect the origins for themselves. They tend to become a little wiser, but don't go very far. It is possible that they now travel slower, and will make bigger, better mistakes. That is how they are a people. They have an infinity of hope and an eternity of struggles. Nothing can destroy them except themselves and they will never finish the road that is their soul and they do not know it.

Vous avez la chance de vous engager sur un chemin ardu mais qui vous apportera de grand satisfaction, quant intellectuel que personnel. Vous serez amenés à analyser les structures sociales, les édifices constitutionnelles et les relations familiales et commerciales. Cette réflexion sur la complexité des relations sociales vous permettra d'acquiescer des concepts et des outils analytiques qui vous serviront bien, peu importe la voie que vous choisirez. As you the new generation, the Class of 1999, commence your legal studies, I have but one wish for you. Become a little wiser and make bigger, better mistakes. Thank you.

OTIS NOTICE

Hello again!

A few messages in sports for this week. First, there's still time to sign up for intramurals. We need people for women's hockey, volleyball, softball, etc. Just check the board in the pit.

Second, I would like to congratulate everyone who came to Sports Day. We

had a lot of fun and a lot of people showed up. Good job, Orientation Committee!

Finally, this year, Québec City will welcome the Law Games from the 17th to the 21st of January. New events like a band contest and a debating competition have been added this year. I'll try my best to get you guys a good deal so that our

delegation will be even bigger than last year's. So reserve these dates for Law Games right now and get ready for the time of your life!

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

Alexandra Otis
Sports coordinator

The Right Foundation

Adam Atlas
BCL III

Foundations.

There is introduction in this course to thinking that what we are doing is right.

This is the saddest moment in the training of a citizen.

The training which tells him how the hang-man is chosen and why she too can be the hang-man.

Oh, for the innocence which

reigns before this point.

Oh, that this would not happen.

Oh, that I would not say that I thought this needed to happen.

This is rude, anti-social, criminal and inhuman.

Oh, that we were conscious of what we are thinking.

Oh, that we knew the harm which spews from beyond this step.

Why do you think these chairs are black?

It is a set. A set on which we are being trained to act, to perform and play our parts as actors, as not people, but administrators.

Like actors who play the part that is not them, so are we asked to be divided.

Lover and hang-man.

There is only one alternative.

The QUID Wants Your Help

N'oubliez pas que la date limite pour soumettre des articles est le Lundi matin à 10 heures de chaque semaine. Le Quid Novi compte sur la participation de ses lecteurs. Les articles peuvent être soumis sur diskettes et déposés dans la boîte du Quid au L.S.A. - écrivez les en format Wordperfect 5.1 ou Microsoft Word 6.0. Vous pouvez aussi envoyer des articles par courrier électronique. Notre adresse est simplement: QUID@LSA.LAN.CA

Don't forget deadlines for the submission of articles are Monday mornings at 10 a.m. The Quid is counting on the readers' participation. Please write your articles on Wordperfect 5.1 or Microsoft Word 6.0 and deposit your diskettes in the Quid box in the L.S.A. office. Alternatively, articles can be sent by E-mail. Our address is: QUID@LSA.LAN.CA.

PANTOUFLICATING

Don McGowan LLB III

This is my second column, which means that Emmanuel didn't hate the first one so much that he asked for me to be expelled from law school. Most of you, of course, haven't seen a Quid as of yet (10 September), so I get a second kick at the cat before the cries for my being fed to Siegfried and Roy's albino beauties...

How to pick a film

I did receive some harsh words for having chosen *Johnny Mnemonic* as the worst movie of all time (for those of you still looking, it'll be at the Paris this week). Some people felt I was unduly harsh on Mr. Canoehead. Yes, I have seen *Eraserhead*, *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*, and *Plan 9 from Outer Space*. I've even seen *Alien Seed* (starring Erik Estrada). *Alien Seed* is a fine film, meaning the plot defies human understanding unless you read the back of the box. One fine car chase starts in the day in the country, then switch to the city at night, then to the city in daylight, then back to the country at night, where the heroine's car inexplicably bursts into flame. But I have certain criteria for a Pantouflication from which I will not deviate:

- It didn't go straight to video. I'll have a straight to video column later this year (yeah, I bet you can't wait),

but for now, it's cinema only.

- It didn't try to be an art film. These are always bad, and it's not fair to judge them against things which try to have a plot and make money.
- It has to be in English. The only exception I'll make is for Stallone, who merely has to approximate English. After all, the French think Jerry Lewis is funny, and I'm not going to hold that against them.

That being said, I should probably tell you a little secret: the best movie reviews are in the Saturday Gazoo. You just have to know how to read them. Sometimes, they'll let you down, but usually they're the best thing around.

- 5 stars = okay. It's got its moments, but don't expect anything wonderful.
- 4 stars = pretty good. This will keep you interested, but there's something missing.
- 3 stars = the worst. This stinks. Don't even think about it.
- 2 stars = the best. Non-stop fun.
- 1 star = pretty good. Just like 4 stars, only with more skin.
- BOMB = okay. Just like 5 stars, only no big-name actors.

This isn't a foolproof system, but it's

worked pretty well for me.

90210

The new season starts this week, bringing with it a full year of the finest drama on television today. Word on the grapevine is that Luke Perry is taking most of the year off to fritter his career away shoot movies, and that Shannon Doherty will be back for some guest appearances. It'll be nice to see Ol' Picasso-Face again, and she's always good for a few drinks...

Which brings me to the most important part of 90210. The drinking game. The rules are simple: Drink every time they do something stupid, or drink every time they say something stupid. Additional drinks can be had for purely gratuitous cleavage shots or for patently incomprehensible life situations, and you can't drink if it's happened to you. And that's it. Don't play any of those games like the Star Trek game with thousands of little rules and different numbers of drinks for different things. You'll never remember them all.

That's all for this week. When she saw my reaction to *Fishtar*, Randi Haimovitz told me that I had to move like the waves in the ocean. She says that, if you say it right, it becomes a philosophy for life. Ask her what this means. I still hate Kevin Costner.

More Announcements

Attention all upper year students: PEOPLE NEED YOUR ADVICE!

Volunteers are required to staff the Placement Office and counsel

students. No expertise is necessary - just a willingness to give one hour a week of your time. Please sign up on the door of the Placement Office, or call Kathy at 845-5636 for further information.

CALLING ALL FIDDLERS

There are a number of last year's Skitnite "Honourary Fiddlers" from whom we have not received \$20 pledges. Could you please verify the lists posted in the L.S.A. office to see whether you owe any money. We have had to delay final payment to our charities until such a time as we receive payment from these patrons. Thanks, Dave.

READ THIS !!

Since this is the start of a new year at the Quid Novi, we would like input from readers so we can improve your newspaper. Please fill out this survey honestly and deposit it the Quid Box at the L.S.A. office. It's greatly appreciated. Avec le début d'une nouvelle année au Quid Novi, nous aimerons aller toujours en s'améliorant. C'est pour cela que nous voulons avoir l'opinion de nos lecteurs. Veuillez s'il-vous-plaît répondre aux questions honêtement et placer cette page dans la boîte du Quid au bureau du L.S.A. Merci beaucoup.

1. The Quid averages 10-12 pages per week. Would you like it to be:

Le Quid a en moyenne 10-12 pages par semaine. Vous aimeriez qu'il soit:

☐ longer/plus long ☐ shorter/plus court ☐ it's fine/c'est bien

2. The Quid is a bilingual newspaper. You would like:

Le Quid est un journal bilingue. Vous aimeriez:

☐ more english/plus d'anglais ☐ more french/plus de français

3. At the Quid, we try to cover what interests our readers. What do you like the Quid to cover?

Le Quid veut donner aux lecteurs ce qu'ils veulent. Vous aimeriez voir:

- ☐ L.S.A. updates/les activités du L.S.A.
- ☐ What's going on at McGill/Ce qui ce passe à McGill
- ☐ What's going on in Law School/Ce qui ce passe à la Faculté de droit
- ☐ About other Law faculties/A propos d'autres facultés de droit
- ☐ Interviews with professeurs/Interviews avec les professeurs
- ☐ Interviews with lawyers or judges/Interviews avec des avocats ou juges
- ☐ Movie and other reviews/Critiques de films et d'autres choses
- ☐ Social calendar/ Calendrier social
- ☐ Cartoons and caricatures/Bandes dessinées et caricatures
- ☐ Other? Autres _____

4. What do you like or dislike about the Quid? Put a Y for like and N for dislike.

Qu'est-ce que vous aimez ou n'aimez pas du Quid? Mettez un O pour ce que vous aimez et N pour ce que vous n'aimez pas.

- ☐ JodyTalk
- ☐ Announcements/Annonces
- ☐ Editorial
- ☐ the design/la mise en page
- ☐ the writing/l'écriture
- ☐ the size/la taille
- ☐ the Quid in general/le Quid en général

5. Remarks/Remarques:
